THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the profits of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have been rising during last two years. However, profits of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have fallen by 18.38% during 2004-05.

(b) The details of profits earned by MTNL and BSNL during the last three years are as follows:

| Financial year | Profits (Rs. in crores) | |
|---|---|---|
| | MTNL | BSNL |
| 2002-03 | 877.16 | 1444.44 |
| 2003-04 | 1150.48 | 5976.52 |
| 2004-05 | 938.98 | 10183.29 |

(c) There was no fall in the profits in BSNL. However, profit for the year 2004-05 decreased by 18.38% in respect of MTNL mainly on account of downward revision of Access Deficit Charges (ADC) and reduction of tariff.

(d) The following steps are being taken to ensure that these PSUs do not become sick:

(i) Modernizing and expansion of the network.

(ii) Revising the tariffs in line with the competition.

(iii) Exploring Joint Ventures with foreign companies.

(iv) Reduction of operating cost through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and also to increase productivity.

(v) Increasing revenue through value added services and increasing traffic during slack hours.

(vi) Maximum and early utilization of capacity of the network.

**Imposition of fine on phone tapping**

2117. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) propose to impose fine on phone tapping;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the extent of this menace in India and how far the new measures will help control this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the competent authority can order for interception of any message or class of messages. Therefore, the question of imposing fine for such an interception does not arise.

(c) The interception of message or class of messages is ordered by the competent authority under specified circumstances and new measures further restrict the period of *post facto* approval under emergent cases.

**Expansion of Mobile Telephone Network**

2118. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are undertaking major mobile telephone network expansion projects in various zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the poor quality equipment and infrastructure supplied by some of the private companies is impeding early completion of the expansion projects and resulting in heavy revenue loss to BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated against the defaulting companies and speed up implementation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The zone-wise expansion plan of cellular mobile telephone (GSM) network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and two units of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is as follows: